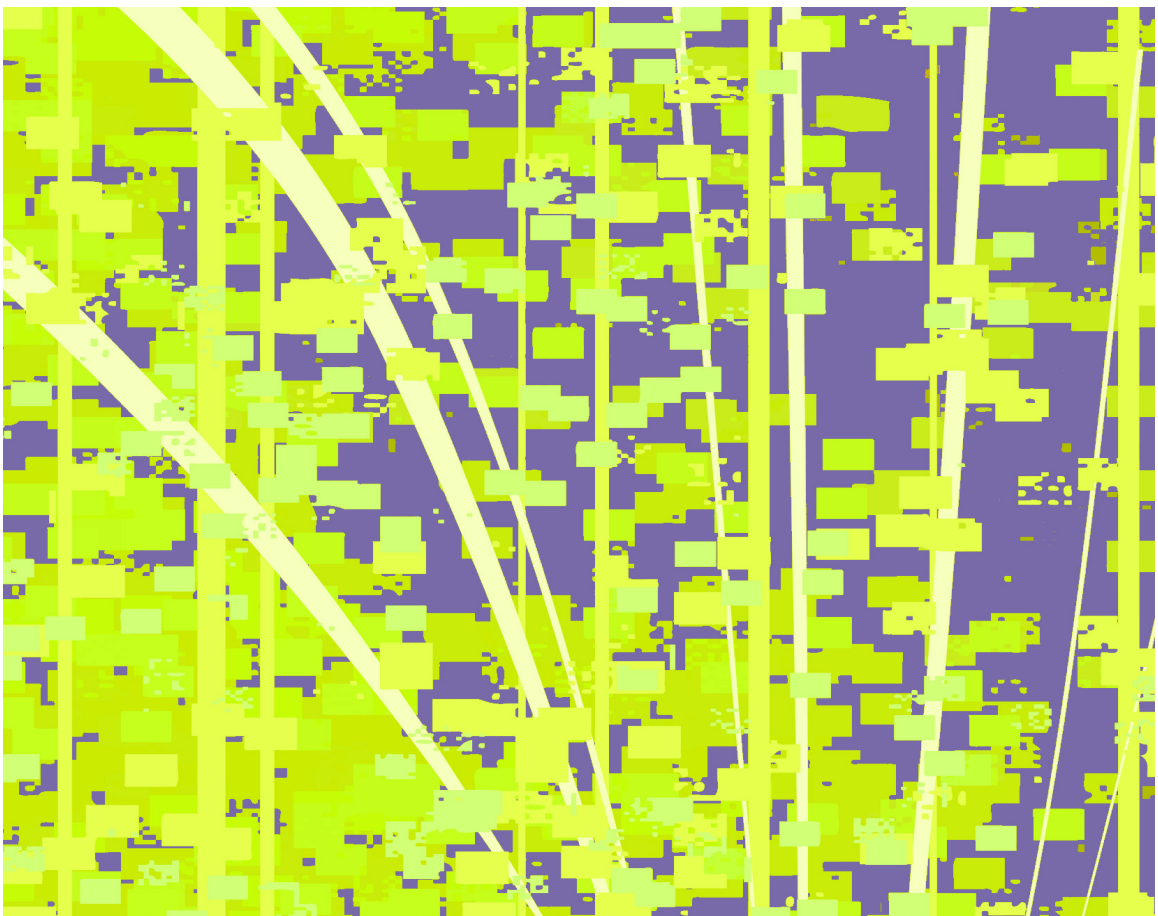


VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY
PREVENTION AND EARLY INTERVENTION

SERVICE AREA EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

East



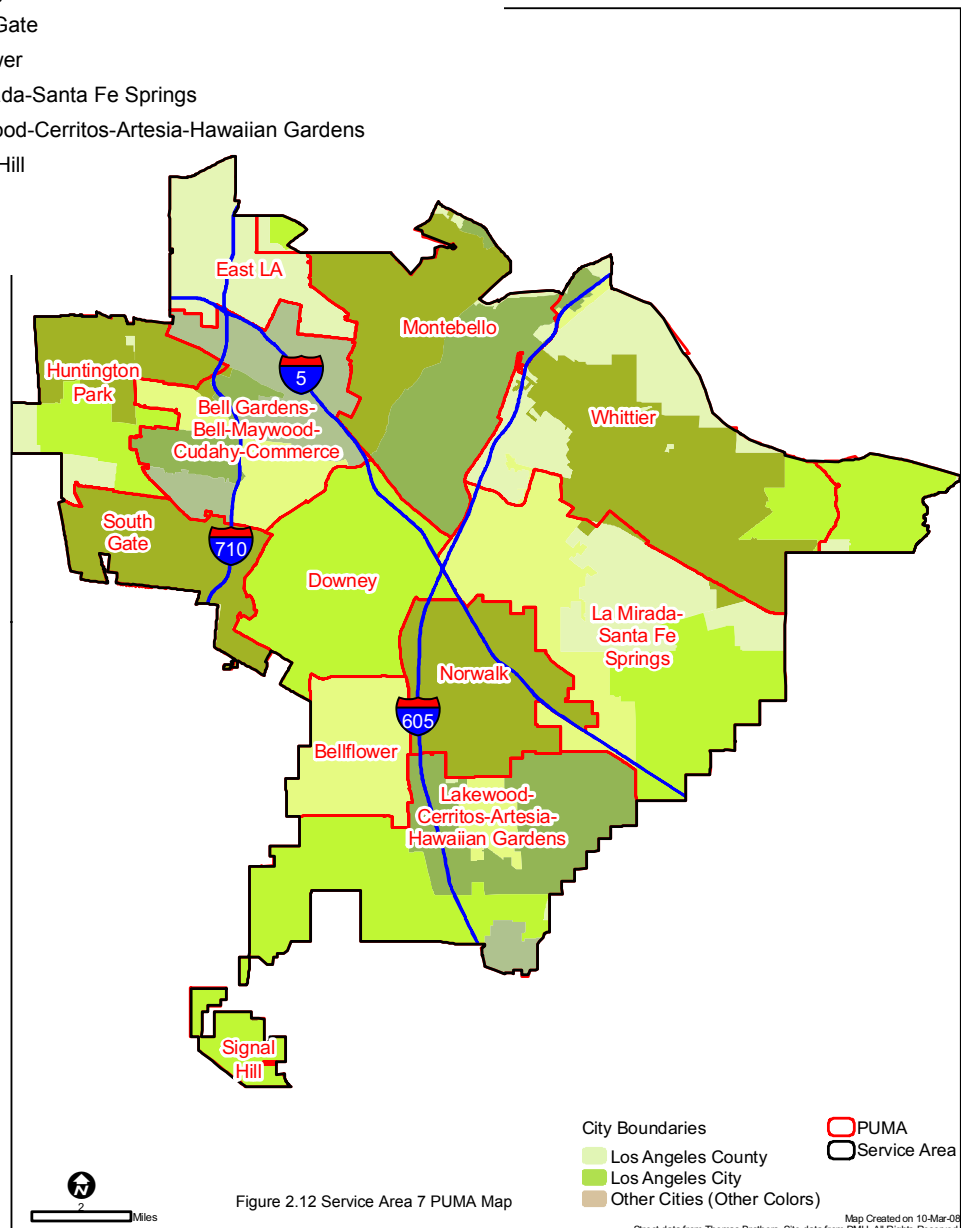
Service Area 7: East

Communities

East LA
 Downey
 Norwalk
 Whittier
 Montebello
 Bell Gardens-Bell-Maywood-Cudahy-Commerce
 Huntington Park
 South Gate
 Bellflower
 La Mirada-Santa Fe Springs
 Lakewood-Cerritos-Artesia-Hawaiian Gardens
 Signal Hill

ZIP Codes

90255	90603	90608	90637	90651	90662	90703	90713
90270	90604	90609	90638	90652	90665	90706	90714
90280	90605	90610	90639	90659	90670	90707	90715
90601	90606	90631	90640	90660	90701	90711	90716
90602	90607	90633	90650	90661	90702	90712	90809
							90888



Demographic Profile

Ethnic Diversity: Latino Majority

Service Area 7 (SA7) is comprised primarily of eleven communities in the east central portion of the county. The majority of the population in SA7 is Latino (70.9%), followed by Western European Whites (14.8%), Asians (9.1%), and African-Americans (2.9%). Russian, Iranian, Armenian, Other Middle Eastern, South Asian, American Indian, Pacific Islander, and Multi-ethnic individuals are other ancestry groups that number over 1,000 individuals. Latinos are a majority in all the communities except the Lakewood-Cerritos-Artesia-Hawaiian Gardens community, which has no majority group. Latinos account for over 90% of the population in the East Los Angeles, Bell Gardens-Bell-Maywood-Cudahy-Commerce, Huntington Park, and South Gate communities.

Across the service area, Spanish is the primary language in 54% of households. Two communities, East Los Angeles (84.4%) and Huntington Park (81.9%), have the highest Spanish-speaking rates in the county. English is spoken in 28.9% of the households in the

service area and a handful of Asian languages account for a few percentage points (Chinese, 1.1%; Korean, 1.4%; and Tagalog, 2.0%).

Age Distribution: Youthful Population

Service Area 7 had a young population with 43.1% under the age of 26. Across the county, this age group accounts for 38.9% of the population. Within the service area, older adults accounted for 12.2% of the population.

Economic Diversity: About Average

The median household income in the service area of \$48,717 was equal to the county median of \$48,282, though the mean income was a bit lower than the county mean. It is important to consider both median and mean statistics when examining incomes. The median or mid-point gives a better indication of the typical level of income reported by individuals within the service area. The mean or arithmetic average, however, is a better statistic to compare different geographical areas, such as between and across service areas. Across the service area, mean household

incomes ranged from the low of \$40,475 in the East Los Angeles area to \$119,174 in the Signal Hill area (containing portions of Rancho Palos Verdes). Overall, home ownership in the service area of 55.6% was above the county average of 48.9%. The La Mirada-Santa Fe Springs and Lakewood-Cerritos-Artesia-Hawaiian Gardens areas had home ownership rates of 72.5% and 74.6%, respectively. The community with the lowest rate of home ownership was the Bell Gardens-Bell-Maywood-Cudahy-Commerce area (27.4%).

Looking within the service area indicated that the South Gate and Huntington Park area had households that were the largest in the county (median = 4.1).

Memory and Educational Attainment: Low Memory Problems, Low Educational Attainment

In terms of memory problems as measured by the ACS, 4.1% of individuals in Service

Area 7 reported memory problems, lower than the countywide average of 4.6%. The Huntington Park area had the lowest rates of memory problems reported at 2.3%, while the Norwalk and Whittier communities reported the highest levels of memory problems. Educationally, Service Area 7 had a college graduation rate of 15.9% (in adults 25+), much lower than the countywide average of 27.8%. The community of Signal Hill had the highest number of college graduates in the service area (53.1%), while the East Los Angeles, Bell Gardens-Bell-Maywood-Cudahy-Commerce, Huntington Park, and South Gate communities had less than 4% of their respective populations with a college degree.

Key Indicators: Summary and Excerpts

Underserved Cultural Populations

Ethnicity

In Service Area 7, Hispanics are the most populous group, where they account for 70.9% of the area's population. The over 900,000 Hispanics in the area represent over 20% of all Hispanics in the county. Three of the ten largest Hispanic communities are found within this service area (the East LA, Montebello, and Bell Gardens-Bell-Maywood-Cudahy-Commerce areas). Western European Whites, scattered throughout

the service area, account for 14% of the service area population. Three Asian and South Asian communities are represented in relatively large numbers for their population; however, the two South Asian communities in the Downey area and the aggregate area of Lakewood-Cerritos-Artesia-Hawaiian Gardens represent less than 10% of the service area's total population.

Primary Language

Primary Spanish speakers are the majority in Service Area 7 (54%), followed by primary English speakers (28.9%) Tagalog speakers (2.0%), Korean speakers (1.4%), and Chinese speakers (1.1%). The East area is home to the largest proportion of primary Spanish speakers and smallest proportion of primary Farsi speakers in the county. Examining the composite communities revealed that five have large majorities of primary Spanish speakers: the Montebello, Bell Gardens-Bell-Maywood-Cudahy-Commerce, Bellflower, East LA, and Huntington Park areas. The East LA and the Huntington Park areas have over 80% of their respective populations reporting Spanish as their primary language. Three communities (the La Mirada-Santa Fe Springs, Lakewood-Cerritos-Artesia-Hawaiian Gardens, and Signal Hill areas) have a majority of primary English speakers, and four others have no clear majority, though primary English or Spanish speakers are the most numerous in all communities. Relatively large numbers of primary Tagalog speakers are found in the Norwalk and Lakewood-Cerritos-Artesia-Hawaiian Gardens areas. Primary Korean speakers are found in significant numbers in at least five communities. Primary Chinese speakers may be found in significant numbers in the Montebello and Lakewood-Cerritos-Artesia-Hawaiian Gardens areas. Two communities, Signal Hill and the Lakewood-Cerritos-Artesia-Hawaiian Gardens area, have six primary language groups in excess of 1% of their respective populations.

Linguistic Isolation

Service Area 7 had a Linguistic Isolation score of 8.8%, which was above the county

figure of 7.8%. Four named communities within the service area had isolation levels in excess of 10%: South Gate (11.9%), Huntington Park (14.8%), Bell Gardens-Bell-Maywood-Cudahy-Commerce (14.8%), and East LA (22.7%). Like Service Area 6, these four communities are demographically similar in terms of primary language composition: a large majority of residents in each of these communities are primary Spanish speakers, (e.g., in the East LA area, 84.4% of the population; in Huntington Park, 81.9%). Each community has very few speakers of other languages besides English. As in Service Area 6, there is little question that isolated households in these communities are likely to be monolingual Spanish-speaking.

Individuals Experiencing Onset of Serious Psychiatric Illness

Serious Mental Illness Penetration Rate

The overall Penetration Rate for Service Area 7 was 0.16; this was the lowest rate seen in the county (whose overall rate was 0.34). This suggests that county mental health services may have the least reach into the SMI population here than elsewhere in the county. Across ethnicities, Asians (0.06) were the least-served by county mental health services. Following this, in order of Penetration Rates, were the Latino population (0.14), the White population (0.17), the African-American population (0.57), and the Native American population (1.33). This was the highest Penetration Rate obtained for the Native American population in the county.

Depressive Disorders**Age Groups**

Service Area 7 accounted for 11.1% of depressed clients served in the county. No age group had a majority of depressed clients treated in the service area. 43.6% of depressed clients came from the Adult group and this was below the countywide figure of 49.2%. Children (0-15) were a majority of depressed clients served in four communities (the Whittier, Huntington Park, South Gate, and Signal Hill areas). Two communities saw a majority of depressed clients coming from the TAY (16-25) group: the Downey and Bellflower areas. Two communities treated a majority of depressed Adults (26-59): the La Mirada-Santa Fe Springs and the Lakewood-Cerritos-Artesia-Hawaiian Gardens areas. Across the service area, the large proportion of depressed clients, 32.9%, were treated in the Lakewood-Cerritos-Artesia-Hawaiian Gardens area.

Ethnicity

Latinos were a majority of depressed clients served in Service Area 7 (62.0%). No other service area saw as large a proportion of clients representing a single ethnic group. This was followed by White clients, 12.6%; African-American clients, 10.7%; Native American clients, 2.6%; and Asian clients, 2.8%. Pacific Islander clients accounted for less than 1% of the population served in the service area. Examining the composite communities in further detail showed eight communities where Latinos were the majority of depressed clients served: the East LA, Whittier, Montebello, Bell Gardens-Bell-Maywood-Cudahy-Commerce, South Gate, La Mirada-Santa Fe Springs, Lakewood-

Cerritos-Artesia-Hawaiian Gardens, and Signal Hill areas. African-Americans were a majority of depressed clients in the Huntington Park area.

Co-occurring Disorders (COD)**Age Groups**

Service Area 7 clients accounted for 11.5% of individuals with COD treated in the county's mental health system. Unlike other areas of the county, no age group accounted for a majority of clients with a COD. This meant that other age groups, particularly children (0-15) and TAY (16-25), accounted for relatively larger proportions of the COD population. Children accounted for 20.3% of the service area's COD cases, the largest proportion in the county for this age group. The TAY group accounted for 36.5% of the COD population and this was also the largest proportion in the county for this age group. Across the service area, the Lakewood-Cerritos-Hawaiian Gardens community treated the largest proportion of clients with COD (29.9%). This was followed by the Downey area (25.9%), the La Mirada-Santa Fe Springs area (13.6%), the Bell Gardens-Bell-Cudahy-Commerce area (13.3%), and the Norwalk area (10.4%).

Ethnicity

Latino clients accounted for a majority (52.1%) of the COD population treated in Service Area 7, the only service area where this occurred. Following this, White clients (19.7%), African-American clients (14.6%), Native American clients (3.3%), and Asian clients (1.3%), were, in order, the next most numerous ethnic groups represented. Pacific Islanders accounted for less than 1% of the COD population. When compared with

population estimates, African-Americans (2.9%) and Native Americans (0.2%) appeared to be overrepresented in the COD client counts; Latinos (70.9%) and Asians (10.0%) were underrepresented.

Children/Youth in Stressed Families

Poverty

Service Area 7 had an overall poverty rate of 39.5%, which is close to the county rate of 38.7%. Overall, four communities, East LA, the aggregate of Bell Gardens-Bell-Maywood-Cudahy-Commerce, Huntington Park, and South Gate, had a majority of its residents living beneath the 200% FPL. Because of the very large Hispanic population in the service area, Hispanic groups accounted for 83% of the total poverty population within the service area. Five communities saw over 50% of the Hispanic population living below the 200% FPL: the East LA area (57.7%), the Bell Gardens-Bell-Maywood-Cudahy-Commerce area (58.4%), the Huntington Park area (59.2%), the South Gate area (60.8%), and the Bellflower area (55.0%). Two communities had White populations with over 50% of its numbers living in poverty: the East LA area (51.5%) and the Huntington Park area (60.2%). Also above the 50% level were two African-American communities, the East LA area (55.5%) and the Huntington Park area (53.6%); three American Indian communities, the Montebello area (89.2%), the Huntington Park area (100%), and the South Gate area (100%); and one Asian community, the Downey area (52.3%).

Unemployment Rate

Service Area 7 had an unemployment rate of 7%, which was very close to the countywide average of 7.4%. Two communities had reported unemployment rates of at least 10%: the Norwalk area (10%) and the Bellflower area (11.1%). The Signal Hill area (2.1%) yielded the lowest unemployment rate in the service area and the county (the Palos Verdes-Lomita area in Service Area 8 also had an unemployment rate of 2.1%).

Disrupted Families

Service Area 7 had a DF ratio of 2.3, similar to the countywide ratio of 2.2. As in other parts of the county, Service Area 7 had areas with relatively high DF scores, (e.g., Lakewood-Cerritos-Artesia-Hawaiian Gardens, 5.0, and Signal Hill, 5.1), and relatively low DF scores, (e.g., East LA, 1.5, La Mirada-Santa Fe Springs, 1.8, and South Gate, 1.8). In both the Lakewood-Cerritos-Artesia-Hawaiian Gardens area and the Signal Hill area, intact families outnumbered single-parent families 5 to 1.

Safe Place to Play (Countywide Summary Only)

Age Groups

Across the three age groups reported, there appeared to be a trend in parent-report. Parents were more likely to report that a safe place to play was less available for older children than for younger ones.

Ethnicity

There did not appear to be any significant difference between parent reports across ethnicities.

Trauma-exposed Individuals

Child Abuse

Child Abuse and Neglect Base Rates

Service Area 7 had an overall CAN Rate of 0.94, which was very close to the countywide Rate of 0.96. Within the service area, 20.5% of all SCAN reports were substantiated by DCFS staff. Examining the composite communities revealed that the East LA area (1.76) had the highest CAN Rate; moreover, this was greater than 84% the county's communities, (i.e., PUMAs). This was followed by the Montebello area (1.38). Both of these areas had high percentages of their SCAN reports substantiated.

Triage Response Acuity

Service Area 7 had an Acuity score of 0.12, which was below the countywide score of 0.15. Three communities had scores which equaled or exceeded the countywide figure: the East LA area (0.18), the Norwalk area (0.15), and the Signal Hill area (0.16).

Ethnicity

Across Service Area 7, 92% of SCAN Reports involved three ethnic groups: African-American, White, and Hispanic. Overall, African-American children accounted for 4.4% of SCAN Reports, White children, 10.5%, and Hispanic children, 77.1%. Only one other ethnic group accounted for more than 1% of the victimized children in the area: Mexican at 3.2%. Hispanic children were involved in a majority of SCAN Reports in ten communities: the East LA area, the Downey area, the Norwalk area, the Whittier area, the Montebello area, the Bell Gardens-Bell-Maywood-Cudahy-Commerce area, the Huntington Park area, the South Gate area, the Bellflower

area, and the La Mirada-Santa Fe Springs area.

Elder and Dependent Adult Abuse

Service Area 7 had an overall APS Rate¹ of 2.2, which was a bit below the countywide rate of 2.6. Within the service area, the East LA area (3.1) had the highest APS Rate¹ score.

Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)

Age Groups

Service Area 7 accounted for 9.9% of the county's PTSD cases. A majority of these cases came from the Child (0-15) group (54.3%). Examining the composite communities revealed that seven areas saw a majority of child PTSD cases: the East LA, Norwalk, Whittier, Huntington Park, South Gate, Bellflower, and Signal Hill areas. One community, the Downey area, saw a majority of TAY (16-25) PTSD cases. In the county, this occurred only in one other community, the Granada Hills area in Service Area 2. Adults (26-59) were seen in a majority of PTSD cases in one community: the La Mirada-Santa Fe Springs area. The communities with the four largest proportions of PTSD cases were, in order: the Lakewood-Cerritos-Hawaiian Gardens area (18.1%), the Bell Gardens-Bell-Maywood-Cudahy-Commerce area (16.3%), the Whittier area (12.2%), and the East LA area (11.5%).

Ethnicity

Latino clients accounted for a majority (62.7%) of the PTSD population treated in Service Area 7. Following this, African-American clients (16.5%), White clients (7.2%), Asian clients (6.1), and Native American clients (1.3%) were, in order, the next most nu-

merous ethnic groups represented. Pacific Islanders accounted for less than 1% of the PTSD population. When compared with population estimates, African-Americans (2.9%) and Native Americans (0.2%) appeared to be overrepresented in the COD client counts, whereas, Latinos (70.9%), Whites (15%), and Asians (10.0%) appeared to be underrepresented. African-American clients were a majority in three communities (the Norwalk, Huntington Park, and Bellflower areas); Latino clients were a majority of PTSD cases in six communities (the East LA, Whittier, Bell Gardens-Bell-Maywood-Cudahy-Commerce areas); and White and Latino clients were equally represented in the Signal Hill area.

Homelessness

Age Groups

In Service Area 7, annual homeless estimates for 2007 indicated that the 25-55 Age Group constituted a majority (63.4%) of the homeless population. This was followed by the Under 18 Age Group at 15.5%, the 56+ Age Group at 13.1%, and the 18-24 Age Group at 7.9%.

Ethnicity

Within Service Area 7, Black/African-Americans accounted for 24.7% of the homeless population. Hispanic or Latinos accounted for 43.4%; Whites, 24.7%; and Multi-Racial or Others accounted for 7.2% of the homeless population.

Sub-populations

In Service Area 7, 34.5% of the homeless population reported that they had a mental illness; 40.6% of homeless individuals reported they were substance abusers; and

14.8% reported they were victims of domestic violence.

Children/Youth at Risk for School Failure

4-year Dropout Rate

(Countywide Summary Only)

State figures indicated that over a quarter of all students in Los Angeles County drop out of high school over a four-year period. Examining ethnic categories indicated that African-American students were most at risk for not finishing high school, followed by Pacific Islander, American Indian/Alaska Native, and Hispanic or Latino Students. 15.5% of White students drop out of high school. Two ethnic groups had dropout rates below this: Asian, 7.4%, and Filipino, 12.8%.

High School Graduation Rates

Service Area 7 had an overall high school graduation rate of 84.8% and saw no one ethnic group below the 80th percentile. However, one community within the service area had a graduation rate lower than 50%: the Huntington Park area (49.6%). Looking within this area revealed that students of all ethnicities found it difficult to succeed in graduating. Hispanic students, for example, graduated there at a rate of 50%, meaning that one out two students did not graduate. African-American students graduated there at a rate of 15.4%, and Whites at 16.7%.

English Fluency

Service Area 7 had an English Fluency rate of 68% in its student population, which was nearly identical to the countywide rate of 68.3%. The Huntington Park area (45.9%) and the South Gate area (55.6%) had low English

Fluency rates and, as mentioned above, the two lowest high school graduation rates in the service area. The aggregate community of Bell Gardens-Bell-Maywood-Cudahy-Commerce also had a low English Fluency rate, but a moderate high school graduation rate. All three of these communities have very large numbers of individuals whose primary language is Spanish, (i.e., greater than 75% of the population).

3rd Grade Reading Level

Overall, 27.7% of third graders in Service Area 7 scored at or above the 50th percentile in standardized reading tests. In four communities, less than 20% (or less than one in five third graders) scored at or above the 50th percentile: the East LA area (17.2%), the aggregate of Bell Gardens-Bell-Maywood-Cudahy-Commerce (19.6%), the Huntington Park area (15.3%), and the South Gate area (19%). All four of these communities had the lowest English Fluency rates in the service area. The Huntington Park area, which had the lowest 3rd grade reading scores in the service area, also had the lowest high school graduation rate.

Children/Youth at Risk of or Experiencing Juvenile Justice Involvement

School Discipline

Service Area 7 had an overall suspension rate of 3.5%, which was similar to the countywide rate of 3.7%. The Bellflower (7.7%) and Norwalk (5.4%) areas had the highest suspension rates for the service area. Overall, the service area had an expulsion rate of 0.2%, with the Montebello area (0.7%) having the highest

rate, followed by the Downey area (0.6%).

Juvenile Felony Arrests

(Countywide Summary Only)

Of the 23,787 youths arrested on felony charges during the reporting period, 84.2% were males, 15.8%, females. Ethnically, Hispanic youths were involved in the majority of felony arrests (57.2%), followed by Black/African-American youths (30.3%) and Whites (9.1%). All other ethnicities combined accounted for less than 4% of the juvenile felony arrests.

Youths on Probation

Camp Population

Service Area 7 had 244 youths who were sent to camp; of these, 86.8% were Hispanic, followed by Whites (6.4%) and African-Americans (5.9%). The Bell Gardens-Bell-Maywood-Cudahy-Commerce area had the greatest number of youths sent to camp (35), followed closely by the East LA area (33) and the Montebello area (33).

Supervised Youths

Service Area 7 had 2,726 youths under supervision. Hispanic youths were a large majority of these individuals (84.1%), followed distantly by Whites (7.0%) and African-Americans (6.8%). Although the aggregate community of Bell Gardens-Bell-Maywood-Cudahy-Commerce had the largest number of probationers, virtually all of the service area communities, save the Signal Hill area, had at least two hundred youths under supervision.

Key Indicators of Stigma and Discrimination

Language Capacity of Mental Health Providers

In Service Area 7, where Spanish speakers were a majority of the population, all language groups with the exception of Chinese speakers (2) had higher staffing ratios than those found for Spanish speakers (7). Four communities with sizeable Spanish-speaking populations had fewer than five Spanish-speaking therapists/10,000: the Montebello area (0), the Bell Gardens-Bell-Maywood-Cudahy-Commerce area (2), the Huntington Park area (4), and the South Gate area (1).

Key Indicators of Suicide Risk

Deaths by Suicide

Service Area 7 had an overall suicide rate of 6.5, which was a bit below the countywide rate of 7.0. countywide trends seen in other service areas were also in evidence here. Individuals most at risk for suicide were Males, Whites, and Older Adults across their respective demographic categories. (though the rates for TAY and Adults were fairly close to the Older Adult rate.) The suicide rate was particularly high for Whites in the Montebello area (56.3), followed by the La Mirada-Santa Fe Springs area (33.7), the Downey area (27.3), and the Whittier area (26.9).

Mental Health Emergency Statistics

Service Area 7 had a MHE-Rate that reached 6.9 and was above the countywide rate of 5.9 by a full call. No one community reached the 1,000 call mark, but there were many communities that had several hundred calls placed. The Norwalk area (7.9), Bellflower area (6.7), and the Whittier area (6.7) had the highest MHE-Rates in the service area.

